

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00021 090934Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13

OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-07 OPR-02 /097 W

-----090938Z 092640 /17

O 090800Z MAY 77

FM AMCONGEN DJIBOUTI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0017

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANAA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

UNCLAS DJIBOUTI 0021

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PINT FT

SUBJECT: REFERENDUM/ELECTIONS FEATURE VIRTUAL UNANIMITY AND CALM

REF: DJIBOUTI 009

1. WITH RESULTS STILL COMING IN FROM OUTLYING VOTING STATIONS, THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE COMBINED INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM/NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ALECTION. FOLLOWING LAST MINUTE DECISIONS BY UNI AND MPL TO SUPPORT REFERENDUM, ALL NATIONAL PARTIES CALLED ON THEIRFOLLOWERS TO VOTE OUI , WITH RESULT THAT TERRITORIAL VOTE FOR INDEPENDENCE WILL APPROACH ONE HUNDRED PERCENT.

2. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VOTE NOT QUITE AS LOPSIDED BUT WILL PROBABLY BE OVER 75-80 PERCENT IN FAVOR OF RPI ELECTORAL LIST. AREAS VOTING AGAINST RPI LIST INCLUDE THE ARHIBA QUARTER OF DJIBOUTI TOWN, A CROWDED TOWNSHIP BUILT SOME YEARS AGO BY ALI AREF TO HOUSE AFAR MIGRANT WORKERS. OTHER AREAS WITH SIGNIFICANT VOTES AGAINST RPI
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ELECTORAL LIST INCLUDE TADJOURAH, RANDA, ASEYLA, DAY, ALAILLI-DADA AND CHEKEITTI, ALL LOCATED IN AREAS LARGELY POPULATED BY AFARS ETHNIC GROUPS. IN ONLY ARHIBA TOWNSHIP, RANDA I AND DAY WAS THE VOTE AGAINST IN THE MAJORITY.

3. NO INCIDENT WERE REPORTED ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY. IN DJIBOUTI, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF COLORFUL GROUPS SPORTING HANDMADE LPAI AND OUI ARMBANDS AND A FEW SIGNS LOCATED IN THE PROXIMITY OF POLLING

STATIONS, THERE SEEMED LITTLE MORE ANIMATION THAN THE USUAL QUIET SUNDAY CALM. JOURNALISTS AND THE VARIOUS FOREIGN OBSERVER GROUPS REPORT THAT SAME DIGNY PREVAILED IN THE INTERIOR.

4. DURING THE PAST WEEK THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE FRENCH MILITARY AND NAVAL ACTIVITY IN THE TOWN AND PORT. HOWEVER, ON SUNDAY THE FRENCH FLEET OF NINE WARSHIPS INCLUDING THE CARRIER CLEMENCEAU WAS ABSENT FROM THE PORT AND VIRTUALLY NO TROOPS WERE TO BE SEEN IN THE TOWN.

5. ALTOGETHER, THE COMBINED REFERENDUM/ELECTION WAS A TRIBUTE TO LOCAL POLITICAL ORGANIZATION AND FRENCH CIRCUMSPECTION. OFFICIAL RESULTS WILL PROBABLY BE AVAILABLE ON THURSDAY, 12MAY. CLARK

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